

The influence of windthrow disturbance on soil characteristics in chosen river source areas of Šumava mountains

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to summarize informations about disturbance of development of the ecosystem or landscape. One of the many types of disturbances is windthrow, which can be seen in forests all around the world. The practical part of my work had its place in the Šumava National park, Rokytka basin, where changes in the physical and chemical characteristics of soil after windthrows were studied. Those characteristics are soil texture, soil reaction, colour and moisture.

According to our results, there is a significant influence of windthrow on soil characteristics and also differences between pits and mounds. There is a clear impact on soil horizons too. A strong water retention can be expected due to the topmost peat horizon, which is not typical feature of lokal soil.

Key words: disturbance, windthrow, soil, pit, mound.